AROUND THE NATION

Agents Introduced To Crime Figure, Brilab Trial Told

NEW ORLEANS — An arms dealer and "arranger" standing trial on Brilab charges testified yesterday he unwittingly introduced FBI agents to a reputed crime boss.

I. Irving Davidson also said FBI agents later offered to protect him from being embarrassed by indictment if he would help them get Carlos Marcello, who is reputed to be the Mafia chief of the Gulf Coast.

"I rue the day that I introduced them to Marcello, and I'm glad the man is not mad at me today," said Davidson, adding he knew nothing of any alleged bribery in the matter.

Marcello, 71, is the principal figure among the four defendants in the federal Brilab trial, now in its 15th week.

With Marcello and Davidson, other defendants are former state administration commissioner Charles Roemer and lawyer Vincent Marinello. They are charged with conspiracy to bribe, racketeering and wire and mail fraud.

The four are accused of trying to win a state group insurance contract with bribery and then split the $87,000-a-month commission. During the 1979 Brilab investigation, FBI undercover operatives posed as crooked insurance executives.

Davidson of Washington is a public relations man and dealer in arms and munitions. But his specialty is putting together people interested in the same deals.